N: 129

A LOVING SALUTATION

To all FRIENDS every where, in this great Day of Tryal, to ſtand Faithful unto God, over all Sufferings whatſoever.

YOu dear and tender Children of my Fathers family, Sheep and Lambs of his Fold, my Brethren, Siſters and Friends which are near and dear unto me in the living Virtue of the Life of the Lambs Power, which I behold in the clear Light of that clear Day, that hath dawned and ſhined from on high, which hath viſited us, and whence the ſtreams of the Father's Love, which runneth from his pure and clean Fountain into every part of that Body, of which Chriſt is the head, which is ſo ſweet and exceeding delightful, and refreſhing of Soul, Body, and Spirit, in which you are exceeding precious unto me, and the moſt amiableſt and comelieſt Family amongſt all the Families in the whole Earth; for you are the moſt bleſſed of the Lord, you I mean, that are *Choſen*, *Called*, and *Faithful*, and are begotten by the Immortal Word of the Power of the Infinit God, and are brought forth from the Everlaſting Womb of Eternity, and from the Boſome from whence all glorious Vertue doth flow and iſſue; Who can demonſtrate the Nobleneſs of that Off-ſpring from whence your Beauty doth ariſe? It hath been upon my heart when in the ſweet Repoſe of the Streams of my Father's Love and Life, by which my heart, ſoul and ſpirit hath been overcome, to viſit you with a loving *Salutation* from the place of my outward Bonds and Impriſonment, for the Goſpel ſake, which is the Power of God.

O right Dear and Precious Ones, which are united to that which is but one in all, in which alone the right Dearneſs and Precioufneſs doth conſiſt, the glorious Virtue and Power of the Eternal Son of God, *CHRIST JESUS* our Lord, which we witneſs alone, our Savior and Anointed of the Father, who hath taken his Throne in our ſouls, hearts, ſpirits and bodies, to rule in us over all that is contrary to him. O come, my dear Lambs and dear Babes, it is a time for us to flock together into our Father's Fold, and to get into his Tent of Safety, and to lie down in the Arms of his dear Love, and to be covered with the Wing of his Power; now the wild Boar of the Foreſt is abroad to make his prey, and the Wolviſh Devourers are ſeeking to ſcatter the Sheep of the Lord's Paſture: O let us feel and know the ſafe Harbour, in which alone is Safety, whilſt the boiſterous Storms and Tempeſts are all about us, and the foaming rage of the troubled Seas are caſting up their waves one after another, and their mire and dirt upon us, as if they would devour us; and alſo the many Rocks, Shelves and dangerous Sands are ſeen, which will ſplit all that fall thereupon, who are not wiſe and skilful to avoid them, and know not a Refuge near to fly unto, till the Indignation, Storm and Guſt is overpaſt, and hath accompliſhed its end for which it was ſent and appointed.

Oh! what if we be the Mark for all wild Hunters to ſhoot at? *Eſau* the rough ſpirit, which is cunning in hunting for that which periſheth and muſt die of himſelf, and ſlights that noble Birthright, to be an Heir of the Promiſe, which *Jacob* the plain and ſmooth man prizes more than the meſs of Pottage. Oh dear Lambs and Babes of God, our Rock is ſure and ſtedfaſt, our Refuge and Harbour ſafe and unmovable, and our Pilot wiſe and exceeding skilfull; there is not a danger near, that can attend us in our Voyage to our everlaſting Land of Reſt, but he doth foreſee, and knows right well how to avoid them all. Therefore it is now our Work and Buſineſs in this the Great Day of Tryal, that we put our whole truſt and confidence in him, and to give up all we have and are unto him; and he never failed any that truſted in him, and in the Arm of his Salvation: and he will make all his to feel, know and witneſs,

witneſs, that we cannot add one cubit unto our ſtature, by all that we can do and not in his Spirit and Life. O bleſſed is his Name for evermore, that hath made his Arm bare for us, which hath brought in, and is bringing in Everlaſting Righteouſneſs into our ſouls, and is breaking down all Man's Unrighteouſneſs, and Righteouſneſs, and is ſetting up the Horn of his Anointed, and hath cauſed it to bud, even the Horn of his Salvation, the Eternal Power, which ſhall break to pieces all the Potſherds of the Earth, even the Corrupt Powers of the whole World, and ſhall reign over all for ever and ever. Oh! my heart, ſoul and ſpirit rejoyceth in the conſideration of the ſame, & of the great Work which God hath wrought, and is a working, and therfore I am not at all amazed nor ſtartled at what the Enemies are a working in this their time and hour of the power of Darkneſs; But this my ſoul deſireth, that I and all that know him, may not by the ſubtilty of the wiſdom and cunning of the Serpent, be in the leaſt ſhy of the Truth, nor in the leaſt ſtand aloof off from owning of it in the open face of all, where ever they are caſt by the hand of the Lord's Providence, becauſe of the furious rage of the Enemy, which is and may be exceeding great, but that we may all wait upon the God of our Salvation, to receive the Virtue, Life and Power of him, by which we may endure unto the end of our race, and undergo all the fiery Darts of the Devil, which he ſhooteth at us by the moſt fierceſt of his Inſtruments, which may be let looſe upon us, to drive us from our Ground and Rock, upon which we are built, but that we may all *ſtand faſt, and quit our ſelves like men, and be ſtrong in the Power of his might*, which will caſt out all thoſe fears which cauſe torment, and he wil aid & aſſiſt all ſuch as are in a godly fear & jealouſie, which may be upon the hearts of many in this the day of Trial, knowing that the fleſhly part is weak and cannot ſtand in the Trial. But this I know and am perſwaded of, in the holy fear of God, that the ſtrength of the Lord God will be made manifeſt in weakneſs, that his Power may be magnified over all: For this I know aſſuredly, God doth not regard the ſtrength, wiſdom and parts nor abilities of none of the Sons of men, but the weakeſt and feebleſt of his own he hath an eye unto, to hold forth his hand

of power to help the helpless, and this I am perswaded, and in his fear and counsel, that the simplicity and lowliness of his own Seed, he hath a special regard unto; which lowliness and simplicity brings into uprightness with the Lord, and to wait upon him in all faithfulness with the eye single unto him; and that man and woman shall not want strength in the time of need, to witness for God, if it be required of them even to lay down their dear lives for a Testimony to the Truth, which they witness God hath made them partakers of; let their measure be never so small, for that is it which the Lord looks at, the gift of his own Seed. Though it be but as a grain of mustard seed; I say, that is it which the Lord God looks at, be it less or more in each particular, the gift of himself: but where *much is given, much is required*; and so little being given, no more is required but faithfulness to that: And therefore dear Lambs & Babes of God, in your own stand fast, which is given of God, & which you have received from him, that no man nor thing take your Crown from you; and the desire of my heart is, that you, the *little one*, may be as *David, and David as the Angel of God*. So dear Lambs feel with me a little where your strength lies; is it not with you when your minds are staied and fixed in the measure of the gift of God, in which you feel the Power which quieteth all, which brings into calmness, stilness, and coldness? then do not you find a secret hand of Power to arise up in your hearts, which girds up the loyns of your minds, and girts you about with living strength? And then, are not your hearts opened, and your understandings cleared, and your minds bent & staied upon the Lord? Then, do not you behold the Beloved of your souls, and is he not then unto you *the cheifest of ten thousands*? And then, cannot you trust in him, and in the Arm of his Power revealed in you? yea I know you can. Then, do you feel *his Banner of Love to be over you*? then, do you feel *his Right hand imbracing of you*, and filling your souls with his swetness of Love and Life, which is *better than Wine*, and all Spices? Then, doth he reveal unto, and give you of his sweet Counsel, and open the Mystery of his Kingdom, and gives you to understand the working of his Power? And then, can you say one unto another, *Did not our hearts burn while he talked with us?* O the precious frame of spirit

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that is felt when the mind in the pure Power of the Lord God is gathered up unto him, in waiting to receive of his Liberal Bounty the freeneſs of his Grace & Love, the Life to ſpring up over all the death and darkneſs, and the will of man overcome and ſubjected, delighting to ſtand in the Will and Counſel of God, that it may take place in all things, over all to Reign, the Righteous Power to be above all. *This makes glad the hearts of the upright.* Oh my heart is full, and my cup doth overflow to you, much more then words can utter at this time, in writing unto you the Beloved of God, and of my ſoul, becauſe of it! O let us all ſit down in the Manſion-houſe of God, and at the banqueting Table of him! for truly it is often with me, that I behold in the Light of the Lamb, that all you the Children of the moſt high God, ſiting as Children at one Table, in the comly Order and Beauty, every one according to the Father's appointment, where he comes to take a view of you all, and to diſtribute, and that you may receive a portion of his pure Bread and *Water of Life*, and of the Milk and Wine which he hath mingled, and that each particular Babe may have his lot and portion ſutable unto his nature and growth in the Myſtery of his Kingdom, and according to the working of his divine Power in them, that there may be no complaining in his houſe, where there is bread enough; and this is known unto ſuch whoſe minds are not without, but inwardly ſtaid, feeling their own gift from God, and ſo are ſatisfied with their portion, which he doth give and renew in due ſeaſon; So that the murmuring and the diſcontented part may be ſhut out, and the quiet and contented mind may be known; for *Godlineſs with Content is great gain.*

Oh dear Lambs! we have a great Portion; for I can ſay in the ſecrets of my Soul, *The Lord is my Portion*, and hath been and is yours alſo, which have waited for him, and in whom is your delight; Oh! Do you not delight to be in his Preſence which is Life unto your Souls? Oh! Is there any other thing that can take away your hearts? Nay, I know you that have, and do enjoy and witneſs, Is Life your Love, when at any time that the heart is upon any thing that is worldly? You can ſay, It is not Life unto you, but death: Oh

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the precious Life which God hath manifested in us, which believe in his Light, it only can magnifie the Lord, and suffer for him and his Son, who is our Life, All in All to us; Oh! my Soul doth bow down before him, who is the everlasting strength of all his People: Oh! let us fight valiantly under his Banner of Love, who hath lifted up his Standard in this our day, and we have a glorious and victorious Captain, which is gone and going before us, to lead us to an everlasting and heavenly Rest, that he hath prepared for us in his everlasting Kingdom; there is the Wine prepared, which he doth drink with his Children: Oh my Friends, we may drink, and that abundantly; Oh! we may suck and draw from those Breasts and Paps from whence our nourishment comes; Oh feel the Oyl of gladness daily poured down, which comes from the true Olive Tree, which is full of fatness, and drink of that Wine which comes from that Vine, which is only full of sweetness, that from the strength of which, you may be fruitful, and bring forth fruit unto God. Oh! in the Love and Life of the Lamb, look over all weakness in one another, as God doth look over all the weakness in every one of us, and doth love us for his own Seed sake, which is the object of his Love, that overcomes all the contrary; and that is the object which our Love is unto in each other, which will in time overcome all evil; for it is the only good thing by which all evil is overcome. And in so doing, peace will abound in our borders, and it will flow forth amongst us like a River, and it will keep out jars, strifes, and contentions from us, and so we shall be kept as a beautiful and amiable Family; and in the order of God, that so the fame of it may sound abroad, that others that are scattered from it, may be brought home, that so there may be a rejoycing in their return from their Prodigal Estate, and that will manifest us to be in the good order of God, and to be merciful as he is merciful, and to love the Good, and thereby to eschew the Evil, and it overcome in the patience and long-suffering, and this leadeth to repentance and amendment of life.

So my dear Friends of the Living God, feel me near unto you in that which is beyond all words, for my Life lies not in words,

words, but only in that which was before words, which is the Word of his eternal Power, in which is my Love and Life for evermore; in which I dearly ſalute you all, and in it deſire your eternal welfare, and your daily growth in the Wiſdom and Power of an endleſs Life, and in the Living Vertue of him, in whom all our freſh ſprings are to be found: So the Lord God Almighty be with you, all dear Babes and Childsen of my heavenly Father, that all our ſtrong *Groans*, *Cries*, and *Tears*, may meet at his heavenly Throne, in the fervency of his own Life, and we may feel and know aſſuredly, that we find acceptation with him, and an anſwer returned into our boſoms from the boſom of his Love, in which we may dwell and abide for ever and ever.

Theſe few Lines do manifeſt ſomething that was upon my heart towards you, in the feeling of my Fathers Love, as I lay in my Bed in the night ſeaſon, this 11th of the 9th Month, 1662, from him that travels in Spirit, till the Seed of God is ſet up to Reign over all, for evermore, Amen.

Newgate Priſon in London.

WILLIAM BREND.

THE END.